

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

It is not believed that the objections to claims 6 and 7 or the §112, second paragraph rejection of claim 6 applies to the present claims.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Honma. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection does not apply to the presently pending claims.

Honma shows an electronic sorting unit 203 for processing image data received from a host computer to generate printing data; and a printer unit 204 for print with using the image data. The electronic sorting unit 203 includes a hard disk 304b for storing the image data. To use this hard disk 304b effectively, the electronic sorting unit 203 is operable to lower a resolution of the image data. However, this hard disk 304b is dedicated to the electronic sorting unit 203, and used only during the process of generating the printing data based on the image data received from the host computer. Additionally, the resolution-conversion of the image data is done only during this process, as one halfway step in the process.

In contrast, the presently claimed invention is directed to recording printing data, once used for a print output, on a removable recording medium to be distributed to a customer so as to be reused for later reprinting. The claimed apparatus detects an available writing capacity of the removable recording medium set to a drive. Based on the result of the detection, a resolution of the printing data is lowered to a proper resolution corresponding to a resolution of the digital printer so that a volume of the printing data does not exceed a volume of the detached available writing capacity of the removable recording medium.

Available writing capacity of a removable recording medium varies depending on e.g., type of medium. When the medium is recordable, the available writing capacity varies depending further on the volume already recorded. Consequently, checking and detecting the available writing capacity of the removable recording medium is necessary each time the medium is to be used. To this end, the removable recording medium has the printing data record thereon, and is distributed to a customer. Then, when the customer wishes to reprint at a later

point in time, the customer merely has to submit the removable recording medium. And the additional printing of the medium can be done with ease.

Claims 2 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Honma in view of Shimura. Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Honma and Osawa.

Claim 5 was rejected as allegedly obvious over Honma and Kinjo. Claim 7 was rejected as allegedly obvious over Honma and Shimura in view of Osawa. Claim 8 was rejected as allegedly obvious over Honma and Shimura in view of Kinjo. Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections.

Honma is discussed above.

Shimura discloses an image memory 6 for storing image data, and a conversion unit 7 for converting a resolution of the image data. According to Shimura, however, the resolution is converted only during a printing process based on the image data. Shimura is silent about recording the image data on a removable recording medium to be distributed to a customer. Shimura does not even suggest a resolution conversion so that specific image data can be recorded on a specific removable recording medium.

As for the other references, Ozawa merely shows effecting a data compression, and Kinjo merely shows recording order-attribute data on a removable recording media, and they do not overcome the deficiencies of the other references discussed above.

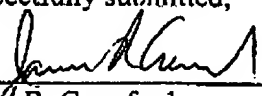
With respect to item 2 of the Office Action, the claimed apparatus can receive digitized image data from both a CD-R drive 2 and an FD drive 3.

With respect to item 11 of the Office Action, the Examiner is referred to U.S. Patent No. 6,129,218 to Shiota et al. which is cited in the IDS filed March 8, 2005.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0624, under Order No. NY-KIT 327-US.

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Respectfully submitted,

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